DESPERATE TIMES, CREATIVE MEASURES

HOW BUSINESSES ARE PIVOTING TO SURVIVE PANDEMIC

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THE ALMANAC 2020

INSIDE

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VIEWPOINT

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Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請薦繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed $150,000 from more than 150 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

Please consider donating online, which enables your gift to be processed immediately. The secure website is: www.siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund

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I wish to designate my contribution as follows: (select one)

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All donors and their gift amounts will be published in The Almanac unless the boxes below are checked.

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Send coupon and check to: 02 – The Almanac Holiday Fund c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation P.O. Box 45389 San Francisco, CA 94145

The Almanac Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Boys & Girls Clubs
Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program
Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Health Connected
Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have ongoing communication with parents and to make informed decisions that will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

LifeMoves
Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners — Menlo Park
Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

Ravenswood Family Health Center
Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room
Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony’s is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

St. Francis Center
Helps low-income, working families become self-supporting members of the community by providing long-term solutions through educational programs for children and parents, as well as after-school programming at Siena Youth Centers. St. Francis Center also provides housing, food and clothing services to address short-term needs.

StarVista
Provides more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars
Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.
High school district parents, teachers and students at odds over returning to classrooms

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

S
ome Sequoia Union High School District students are pleading to return to classrooms next semester, but necessary upgrades to ventilation systems and the complexity of organizing high school students — who typically have about six classes with six different teachers during their school day — into cohorts may cause delays.

District officials said during a board meeting Nov. 18 that they will present a reopening plan to San Mateo County’s Office of Education on Dec. 2. Locally, major public high schools districts have not reopened and the Palo Alto Unified School District may push back its planned reopenings of Gunn and Palo Alto high schools. Private schools such as Menlo School have reopened to high schoolers.

Menlo-Atherton High School parents like Terri Epidendio said they don’t understand why the district didn’t have a plan for returning to campus sooner. She is concerned about students who don’t have a good setup for distance learning at home and are falling behind academically.

Interim Superintendent Crystal Leach noted that the district “does not have the luxury, nor would we (the district) ever want to, pick and choose who we are educating (in person).” Leach noted the district does not plan based on a set reopening date, but rather on conditions tied to the health and safety of students and staff.

“We are hopefully getting close to the end of distance learning,” she said during last week’s meeting. “I know people are tired and frustrated; this district will continue to move forward to best serve students and our families.”

For those students who are not struggling with access to technology for distance learning, there are still concerns about the long-term health effects of spending so much time on electronic devices during the school day, said Dr. Caroline Krauskopf, a district parent. She sees her own children with multiple windows open on their research by McKinsey & Company. The virus is disrupting many of the supports that can help vulnerable students stay in school: academic engagement and achievement, strong relationships with caring adults and supportive home environments, the study states. In normal circumstances, students who miss more than 10 days of school are 36% more likely to drop out, according to McKinsey.

“Teachers feel like Sisyphus; pushing the boulder up the hill, just to have it roll down again.”

EDITH SALVATORE, SEQUOIA DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

What county health leaders are doing to bridge COVID-19 testing gaps

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

P
eople of color have been the most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and San Mateo County is working on reducing disparities through testing initiatives, county health officials said in a panel discussion hosted Nov. 19.

The virtual event also included an announcement that the county recently created a health equity officer position to be filled by Shireen Malekaafzali of Get Healthy San Mateo County, focused on bringing together existing equity efforts, identifying needs and listening to community leaders in the hardest hit areas.

The discussion, moderated by Henrietta Burroughs, executive director of East Palo Alto Today, convened health leaders and other community members to share what they’ve learned and what they’re doing to reduce the pandemic’s toll on communities of color.

Redwood City resident Hector Alvarado shared his experience of contracting the coronavirus at work and how it spread quickly to his family members.

In early September, he said, he and his coworkers had been mostly following safety protocols but let their guards down around a trusted colleague, who wasn’t masked. Within days, he had contracted the virus, along with his wife, her parents and her sister, he said. Although he began quarantining away from other family members as soon as he felt symptoms, isolating himself in his kids’ bedroom and supportive home environment.

In addition to learning loss, COVID-19 closures will probably increase high school dropout rates, according to recent

See TESTING GAPS, page 12

All the fixings: Sequoia district hands out Thanksgiving meal kits to families

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

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District officials gave out 2,400 meals to roughly 600 families, which included turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet corn, gravy, peas and carrots, stuffing, cranberry sauce and blueberry crumble, through a contactless drive-thru at the Food Services Central Kitchen in Redwood City on Monday, Nov. 23.

“This year, we have seen a lot of families with kids in kindergarten and up,” said Yaz Widatalla, the district’s food services supervisor on Tuesday, Nov. 24. This school year, the district has offered free breakfast and lunch to all children under the age of 18 — including students who don’t attend district schools — while campuses are closed for distance learning.

Food insecurity has increased on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com

See SCHOOLS REOPENING, page 9

Local News

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The Almanac Staff Writer

By Kate Bradshaw
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See SCHOOLS REOPENING, page 9
Amid pandemic, Holiday Fund launches charitable campaign

Donations help Ecumenical Hunger and nine other nonprofits serve the community

By Embarcadero Media staff

For the past eight months, more nonprofit organizations like East Palo Alto’s Ecumenical Hunger Program have been scrambling to meet the needs of their clients. In ordinary times, Ecumenical Hunger Program staff would be hard at work to provide emergency food, clothing, furniture, household essentials, social support and sometimes financial assistance for families in need.

But since the pandemic and shutdown began, the agency has had to do a hard pivot. With families out of work and many not qualifying for government assistance, the greatest need in the community has simply been food, according to Executive Director Lesia Preston.

The nonprofit is distributing 1,000 boxes of food per week — at least double the pre-pandemic level of 350 to 500, she said. Because of public health mandates, the 45-year-old nonprofit cannot bring in volunteers to help, and it has temporarily closed all services except for essential food programs.

Food boxes containing protein, vegetables, grains and canned goods are distributed using a drive-thru method at the agency’s Pulgas Avenue headquarters in East Palo Alto. Unfortunately, traditional food bank resources at the same time are “diminishing,” she said.

To supplement food bank supplies, Preston and her staff have contacted local grocery stores, warehouses, restaurants and farms to see if they can get donations or purchase critical supplies in bulk.

“Staff members are wearing multiple hats, which include sourcing food, picking up and accepting fresh food donations, stocking the food pantry, packing food boxes, directing traffic and more,” Preston said.

She and key staff members are working six days a week to keep up with the demand.

To give a much-needed boost to organizations like Ecumenical Hunger Program, The Almanac is again launching its annual Holiday Fund campaign to raise funds for dozens of programs serving families and children in the Midpeninsula.

Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed over $150,000. Because The Almanac and its Holiday Fund partner the Silicon Valley Community Foundation cover all the administrative costs of the campaign, every dollar raised goes directly to this year’s 10 nonprofit organizations.

“The needs in our area have always been pressing for those families and individuals who aren’t benefiting from the tech economy, but this year, with the pandemic, our nonprofit partners are seeing deeper and more widespread pleas for assistance. What’s more, those agencies are operating within considerable constraints due to public health protocols,” Almanac Publisher Bill Johnson said.

We’ve always been inspired by the unflagging generosity of our fellow neighbors who donate to the Holiday Fund. As this pandemic has exacerbated the inequities in our community, we’re asking those who have been less materially affected to please join us in supporting these nonprofits that are working around the clock to ease the burdens of increasing numbers of people,” Johnson said.

In addition to individual tax-deductible donations, the fund this year is being supported through matching grants from Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation so that every donation is effectively doubled.

To contribute online to the campaign, go to almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.

Coronavirus central: In ‘unprecedented’ surge, most new cases in people ages 18-49

By Embarcadero Media staff

San Mateo County reported 227 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the county’s total to 13,561. One more person has died, raising the death toll to 70. There were 43 people hospitalized, with 23 of whom were new. The most recent seven-day rolling average of new cases per day stands at 325.

‘Unprecedented’ surge

California’s latest surge of COVID-19 infections is “unprecedented,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday, as new cases and hospitalizations have skyrocketed in recent weeks.

Newsom, speaking from his home in quarantine after three of his children were recently exposed to the virus, said the state has averaged nearly 12,000 new cases per day over the last seven days, a level California hasn’t reached since the pandemic began.

Of those new cases, 60% of them are among those 18 to 49 years old, according to Newsom. Hospitalizations have also spiked by 77% over the last 14 days while intensive care unit admissions have risen by 55% over that span.

“Obviously this extends all across the United States and many parts of the world,” Newsom said of the recent surge. “We’re not immune here in the state of California.”

California has clamped down on social activities like indoor restaurant dining in response to the new surge, moving more than two dozen counties into the state’s most-restrictive reopen ing (purple) tier and implementing a monthlong curfew in those counties to discourage residents from spreading the virus. San Mateo is one of only three Bay Area counties in the less-restrictive red tier.

The surge also comes as the state builds its capacity to deliver out millions of doses of a coronavirus vaccine. Newsom said that work includes collaborating both with local governments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which has given some $28 million to the state to distribute vaccines when they are available to mass amounts of people.

Newsom likened the state’s vaccination planning to its annual efforts to vaccinate roughly 19 million residents against the annual flu.

“We’re not starting from scratch,” Newsom said. “We’re not starting from scratch.”

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For more information, see www.AlmanacNews.com/holiday_fund.

For those who need food assistance, call Ecumenical Hunger Program at 650-323-7781 or stop by the agency Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon or 2:30-4:30 p.m. More information about EHP can be found at ephpcares.org.

For more information about The Holiday Fund, go to almanacnews.com/holiday_fund.
News.

Standing, according to Stanford Ford’s reputation and academic knowledge and damaging Stanford’s disdain for established medical management, endangering citizens including discouraging the use of masks, the faculty senate allege, “promote a view of COVID-19 as zero to 60 mph very quickly,” he said during a briefing on the new stay-at-home order, adding that “all tools are on the table.”

Ghaly suggested that issuing a curfew would discourage state residents from engaging in higher-risk, late-night activities like going to a bar or restaurant, even with restrictions limiting seating to only outdoors.

Preventing such actions, he said, could save the lives of people who may be more vulnerable to developing serious complications from contracting the virus. “Maybe you’re a worker who’s out at night with a group of friends, outdoors even, and you contract COVID and then you go the next day to work and it is passed on, maybe not the next day but a day or two later to a vulnerable resident in a congested care facility,” he said. “Exactly the situation we want to avoid.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert and the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, recently endorsed the potential use of a curfew to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Fauci asked about the potential of a curfew Nov. 17 while receiving an award from San Jose State University, said conditions can vary from county to county and city to city, but that he supported the general premise.

“You don’t like to be very prescriptive,” he said. “But, sometimes when you’re dealing with the seriousness of the situation right now, I leave it up to the good judgment of the leaders of your states and your cities to make that decision.”

Ghaly said the state’s decision to issue the monthlong curfew had more to do with the state’s current surge in cases rather than the potential for large gatherings during Thanksgiving and other upcoming holidays.

“In many ways, the days and weeks to come will be different than in years past,” he said. “And, in order for us to do the best we can with controlling this virus, we’re going to have to keep our guard up, make some tough choices.”

By Bay City News Service

Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a monthlong stay-at-home order Nov. 19, intended to reduce nighttime gatherings and limit the spread of the coronavirus. The order requires nontessential work and gatherings to stop from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. in counties assigned to the “purple” tier, the most-restrictive tier in the state’s pandemic reopening system.

A total of 45 counties are in the purple tier as of Nov. 24, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Sonoma, Solano, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

According to Newsom, the order will be in effect from Nov. 21, through Dec. 21.

“The virus is spreading at a pace we haven’t seen since the start of this pandemic and the next several days and weeks will be critical to stop the surge,” Newsom said in a statement.

“Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of the state’s Health and Human Services Department, said the state chose to issue a curfew to prevent the need for further, even tighter restrictions.

“We’ve seen in the past that COVID goes from zero to 60 mph very quickly,” he said during a briefing on the new stay-at-home order, adding that “all tools are on the table.”

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Newly elected Las Lomitas board member won’t serve

Jody Leng refuses to take seat, leaving two open spots on five-member school board

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Not one, but two seats will soon need to be filled on the Las Lomitas Elementary School District governing board. Jody Leng, who was elected to the board in the Nov. 3 election, recently informed the district she would not take her seat. The other open seat belonged to board president Jon Venverloh, who resigned Nov. 8 amid public outcry over his wife’s racist and misogynistic tweets about Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Leng could not be reached for comment on her decision to run for a seat and then refuse to take it after being elected.

The board voted 4-0 Nov. 18 to appoint new trustees in lieu of holding a special election, which would cost between $365,000 and $438,000, according to San Mateo Chief Deputy County Counsel John D. Nibbelin. The trustees agreed that the cost of a special election was “exorbitant” and preferred to try the appointment route.

“The (appointment) process is conducted in public; to me it’s the right balance of equity and access and saving the district close to half a million dollars,” said trustee Dana Nunn during the meeting. She noted that a contested election is the “gold standard” for the community to select new board members, but there’s also no guarantee that a special election would cost between $365,000 and $438,000, according to Nibbelin for the school board’s district trustees, which is in the ID-19 pandemic, Nunn said.

There is urgency to fill the seats sooner rather than later, given the board’s duty of managing the district’s strategic plan and the extra tasks around distance learning and reopening classrooms during the COVID-19 pandemic, Nunn said.

Appointees would serve until the next regular election for district trustees, which is in November 2022.

The county requires the district to either order a special election or make provisional appointments within 60 days of the vacancies (on or before Jan. 7, 2021, for Venverloh’s former seat, and Feb. 9, 2021, for the seat to which Leng was elected), according to a presentation by Nibbelin for the school board’s Nov. 18 meeting. If the board does not take one of these actions, Nancy Magee, the county superintendent of schools, will order a special election.

A newly elected trustee would serve for the balance of the term remaining after the resignation of the incumbent. In the case of Venverloh’s vacancy, an elected successor would serve until December 2022. In the case of Leng’s seat, an elected successor would fill her vacancy until December 2024. Trustees said they are open to holding an election if their appointment search is not successful.

After an appointment is made, a special election may still be required if at least 1.5% of the voters sign a petition calling for an election, Nibbelin said.

Morimoto asked the board to wait until after he is seated in December to select the new board appointments.

Venverloh’s resignation

Venverloh, a former Google executive, in 2018 joined the elected board that oversees Las Lomitas Elementary School in Atherton and La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park. He issued a statement on Facebook Nov. 8 announcing he was stepping down from the board and condemned his wife’s tweets.

His wife, Mehrdith — who volunteered for Mothers Together at Menlo Church from 2012 to 2014, according to her LinkedIn page and the church — issued an apology to Harris and community members on Facebook, saying her comments were a result of tapering off of her medication.

Martha Lampert, president of the Las Lomitas Education Association, read a statement from teachers during the Nov. 18 meeting.

“Teachers stand with the staff, administrators and board members to support all our students and families, particularly our students and families of color,” she said. “Each member of our diverse community enhances our school and enriches our lives. Bigoted statements that question the integrity, accomplishment and character of people of color, of women, of LGBTQ people and of people who live at the intersections of these communities are intolerable and have no place in our Las Lomitas family or on either of our campuses. We will speak up loudly and strongly against any racism and bigotry.”

Nunn opened the meeting by addressing the controversy with Venverloh.

“I’m disgusted and deeply sorry for the pain and hurt this has caused in our community,” Nunn said. She noted it was an incredibly hard week for the district. “All we can do is move forward and do better together. ... We’ve got a lot of emails and calls for a more diverse board. I would welcome that. We can hopefully find strategies for more candidates and more diverse candidates.”

Email Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com

(800) 580-5945

CRIME BRIEFS

Failed carjacking attempt

Menlo Park police officers arrested a teen Wednesday night, Nov. 18, after she allegedly tried, and failed, to drive away with a vehicle in downtown Menlo Park.

Police officers responded to a reported theft just after 8 p.m. on the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park. A downtown business owner and his mother had been unloading merchandise into their shop, and while inside, heard an engine rev, according to police.

They went to their vehicle, parked in front of the business, and found a teenager in the driver’s seat who appeared to be rummaging through the propped open back door of the car.

When the business owner asked what the girl was doing, she reportedly began trying to put the car in drive, but appeared not to know how. Despite efforts by the business owner’s mother to keep the girl inside the vehicle until the police arrived, she broke loose and ran from the scene with a wallet belonging to the business owner, according to police.

About 20 minutes later, police found a teen matching the suspect’s description several blocks away, but did not find the stolen wallet. They arrested the 16-year-old from East Palo Alto on suspicion of attempted carjacking and released to her mother on a promise to appear in court, according to police.

Witnesses with information related to the case are asked to contact Detective Josh Russell at 650-330-6364 or jprussell@menlopark.org.

—Kate Bradshaw

Three nabbed on weapons, robbery charges

San Mateo County sheriff’s deputies and San Jose police detectives arrested three men on a variety of weapons and robbery charges Nov. 16, following a monthslong investigation.

Sheriff’s and police detectives worked together to determine whether the suspects possessed high-powered rifles and high-capacity magazines, eventually tracking them to a home in the 1400 Block of Camelia Drive in East Palo Alto.

During the arrests, detectives found four assault rifles, three handguns, several large-capacity magazines, a bulletproof vest, narcotics and ammunition, sheriff’s officials said.

Detectives said that the loaded weapons were allegedly within reach of a toddler who lives at the home.

One suspect, 20-year-old Brandon Rodriguez, has been wanted by San Jose police for his alleged involvement in several armed robberies in the Bay Area, according to the Sheriff’s Office.

Rodriguez was arrested along with 26-year-old Ramon Godinez Avila and 23-year-old Guillermo Vargas Anguiano. Rodriguez is facing charges related to the alleged robbery while the other two men face a variety of weapons charges, including possession of an assault rifle and altering a firearm serial number, according to sheriff’s officials.

They also face one count of child endangerment because of the weapons’ alleged proximity to the toddler.

—Bay City News Service

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CRIME BRIEFS

—Bay City News Service
SCHOOLS REOPENING
continued from page 5

computer screens, texting and playing games simultaneously, and worries this learning setup will create long-term attention issues for students.

"Even for students not getting Ds and Fs, these behavior patterns hamper the depth of learning that these young people are acquiring," she said. "Physiologically it creates changes in the brain."

Teachers union perspective

Sequoia District Teachers Association officials have vehemently opposed reopening classrooms during the pandemic. During last week’s board meeting, union president Edith Salvatore read a prepared statement from the group, saying though teachers want to be back in classrooms to support students, the risk of virus transmission on campus is too high.

"A lot has changed since this past summer, but much hasn’t. In terms of risk for COVID, we now know how to protect ourselves better, but the best protection is to limit interaction with people outside your household. Bringing large numbers of students and staff back means necessarily breaking that rule," she said. "It means that whatever precautions we have in place, they are only as good as our ability to follow and enforce them without fail, without a momentary slip. It means placing our well-being and that of our family members in the faith that our colleagues and students and their families are following all those same rules when they are with us and when they are not."

Teachers cry themselves to sleep and lash out with frustration that their students are suffering amid the pandemic and they cannot be there for them, she said.

"They feel like Sisyphus; pushing the boulder up the hill, just to have it roll down again," she said. "What would have been a quick glance across the room to see which students need help has become a view of black squares as teachers walk the knife’s edge between compassionately understanding of teens’ anxiety and tech issues and the expectation that they participate with their cameras on."

HVAC systems

A big focus for the district over the last several months has been upgrading classrooms’ HVAC systems, Leach said during an October board meeting.

The district has been working on increasing the air exchange rates in classrooms — so that virus particles won’t stick in the air for as long, she said. Studies have shown air cleaning and filtration can help reduce airborne contaminants, including particles containing viruses.

HVC fixes should be completed by late January, Leach said on Nov. 18.

County COVID-19 cases

Last week San Mateo County moved from the orange tier (moderate transmission of the virus) back to the red tier (substantial) because of increasing COVID-19 cases.

"As we continue moving forward, it is important to remember that our plans are contingent on current health conditions not deteriorating," Leach said in a Nov. 20 email to parents. "However, in all likelihood, as we see in neighboring counties, San Mateo County is projected to slip into the purple tier (widespread) eventually. If that does occur, we will not be able to implement our reopening plan."
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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
while the kids were relocated to an air mattress in the living room, it was too late, he said. "I didn’t know I had already put them at risk before," he said.

While he experienced fevers, his wife experienced more severe symptoms, including body pains, a fever for 10 days, dehydration and fainting, he said. Both she and Alvarado’s colleague also experienced severe insomnia for days while they were in recovery, he added. "This virus is not a cold, it’s not the flu," he said. "It’s something completely different.”

Testing barriers

Justin Mates, deputy county manager, described some of the obstacles that the public health department has worked to overcome to make testing more accessible to residents. For instance, although the county established a stationary large-scale testing site in San Mateo, many residents had a hard time getting there. In response, the county has set up rotating drive-thru sites throughout the county to make testing more accessible to residents. For instance, although the county had set up rotating drive-thru sites throughout the county to make testing more accessible to residents, they were in recovery, he added. "This virus is not a cold, it’s not the flu," he said. "It’s something completely different.”

The county has doubled its testing rates, he said. Another barrier to testing is the question of trust, Mates said. Some testing vendors require people to make appointments online in advance and may ask a lot of questions, and some people are inclined not to trust vendors or the government with such information, he said.

One contractor the county is working with is Verily, a subsidiary of Google. Several weeks ago, Alameda and San Francisco counties ended their contracts with Verily in response to concerns that the company requires people to have a Gmail account, does not provide information in many languages, and can ask enrollees sensitive personal information, according to the Los Angeles Times. The contracts’ critics also raised concerns that although funding for some testing sites is intended to help low-income, Latino or Black neighborhoods, there had been some instances of higher rates of higher-income residents registering for drive-thru tests through the Google-linked system.

Mates confirmed that his office had also heard those concerns and noted that the county’s standing testing site is state-sponsored and the decision is not at the county level. “Verily has responded to some of the concerns folks have had about how the information is used,” he said. “There are clear opportunities for people to opt out of the Verily system.”

County health leaders convened virtually Nov. 19 to discuss what they’re doing to tackle disparities in COVID-19 testing and outcomes for communities of color in San Mateo County.

County health leaders convened virtually Nov. 19 to discuss what they’re doing to tackle disparities in COVID-19 testing and outcomes for communities of color in San Mateo County. He emphasized the need for people to stay safe during Thanksgiving by spending it with one’s immediate household. "The message is to spend the holidays in your own bubble,” he said.

Prevention

“Our key strategy is to test more people,” said Tai. People who are vulnerable, elderly, or don’t speak English as their first language are priorities for increased testing, he added.

When the vaccines become available, Burroughs asked, who will get them first?

Generally, it will be essential health care workers, then people who are over 65 or who have underlying medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to developing complications from COVID-19, Tai said. These conditions include cancer, heart conditions, a weak immune system, and Type 2 diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has also put together a task force that will evaluate vaccines even after they are approved, Burroughs asked, who will get them first?

"From what we hear from manufacturers, these are very, very safe vaccines," Tai said.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

A Stanford Medicine technician in Dr. Benjamin Pinsky’s lab sorts through patient samples for the COVID-19 infection.

A Stanford Medicine technician in Dr. Benjamin Pinsky’s lab sorts through patient samples for the COVID-19 infection.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 1. Town-wide

Town of Woodside

1. ZAOM2020-0003

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

A resolution of intent and recommendation to the Town Council to amend Chapter 153, Zoning, pertaining to building and plate height, including building and plate height for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU’s).

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING JACKIE YOUNG, PLANNING DIRECTOR; AT FYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG

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Remote Public Comments:
Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

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PLANNING COMMISSION
DECEMBER 2, 2020 6:00 PM

This meeting is compliant with the Governor’s Executive Order N-25-20 issued on March 4, 2020, allowing for deviation of teleconference rules required by the Brown Act. The purpose of this is to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The meeting will be held by teleconferencing. The public may participate via Zoom meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING BY TELECONFERENCE: BILDNER, DARE, ELFISHAWY, KUTAY, LONDON, VOELKE, AND WALL

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November 27, 2020
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A very safe vaccines," Tai said. "From what we hear from manufacturers, these are very, very safe vaccines," Tai said.

Email Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

A Stanford Medicine technician in Dr. Benjamin Pinsky’s lab sorts through patient samples for the COVID-19 infection.

A Stanford Medicine technician in Dr. Benjamin Pinsky’s lab sorts through patient samples for the COVID-19 infection.
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For more than 70 years, Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., duly recognized nonprofit, 501 (c) (3), has demonstrated a profound legacy of caring for seniors, a commitment of providing high quality and nurturing programs so seniors are engaged, cared for and respected as vital community members. PVI’s four core programs, Meals on Wheels, Rosener House Adult Day Care for those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias and the venerated Little House, The Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center, and Transportation services address the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain their daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives.

Senior needs exposed through the lens of COVID-19.

James
Redwood City

“PVI’s Meals on Wheels brings me love. The meals have kept me alive and changed my life. It’s my connection to human beings.” The warm and pleasant driver is like receiving a “hug through their smiles.”

James lives alone and struggles with mobility due to chronic health conditions, making shopping and cooking for himself very difficult. The local liquor store is the most accessible option for food purchases, yet prices are scarce for healthy, affordable, and easy to prepare meals. Though primarily wheelchair bound, James is anxious about using his wheelchair after witnessing another wheelchair user tip over on an uneven sidewalk. When James contacted PVI’s Meals on Wheels program he weighed only 10 pounds and had no food in his refrigerator. Now James is sustained by daily nutritious meals. His PVI Meals on Wheels volunteer driver is often the only person he sees and the connection is like a “daily hug.” James is confined to his apartment most days, where he likes to tinker and fix things, like stereo equipment. No longer burdened by hunger or malnutrition, James finds daily comfort in his hobbies.

Ruth
and Mark
Menlo Park

“PVI’s Rosener House at home is an absolute lifeline for those with Alzheimer’s. Our caregivers had to retreat to their own home situations because of COVID-19. It’s my only respite right now!”

Ruth suffers from Alzheimer’s and PVI’s Adult Day Services at Rosener House has been her therapeutic haven since 2017. She now participates in our virtual programming for families in need at home. Ruth’s dementia has worsened and she struggles with memory difficulty and focus, no longer recalling how to use technology. Mark, both husband and caregiver, starts each online Zoom activity for her. Group activities and individual attention during the one on one calls help to combat increased isolation due to COVID-19, creating a lifeline for them both. Mark says the “thoughtfully tailored and creative personalized sessions by Kris and Josh are extraordinary.” The home delivered activity packets also keep Ruth’s attention, providing Mark with much needed respite. Ruth often cries and happy tears flowed when a piano video was played for her. Her music memory awakened and she joyfully reminisced. Pre pandemic, Ruth enjoyed playing the Steinway piano at Rosener House where participants and staff liked hearing her play many classical melodies. Mark shares how very grateful he is for all the ways PVI supports our family while we are dealing with this extremely devastating disease.

Frank
Menlo Park

“My daughter says that I’m a different person since joining PVI’s Little House online classes: more pep, more cheerful, more mobile, just happier.”

Frank moved to Menlo Park to be closer to family when his beloved wife passed away. He joined PVI’s senior activity center at Little House shortly afterward to fulfill a promise he made to his wife, to take health and wellness more seriously. Frank started attending our onsite fitness classes and appreciated PVI’s transportation rides to and from the senior center before COVID-19. Frank is now participating in the new virtual fitness class offerings, enjoying the camaraderie of others and the variety of fitness levels in the classes. Frank especially likes that minimal equipment is needed to participate and “there is something for everyone.” The instructors know participant names, give positive vibes and activity sessions are just the right size to engage. Frank says the morning classes give him “something to look forward to” and that PVI offers “a gem of a program.”

Visit penvol.org for more information and to read their complete stories. 
Supporting the most vulnerable community through COVID-19 and beyond!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that we are entering the third full season of the pandemic. All of us at Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. (PVI) hope that you and your families continue to be well and safe throughout this extraordinary time.

As COVID-19 continues to reshape our lives, the effect on seniors remains a daily concern for so many you know and love. Today, life for an older adult in your community feels much more insecure and fragile. Someone near you is waking up alone fearful of having no means of getting food for the day; others are struggling to care for a loved one with Alzheimer’s while coping with added health crisis stresses and school closures for children; and an isolated, lonely older adult is left at home without visitors, may need help using technology, and is longing to once again connect and engage in group activities that will help her flourish.

Our senior population is growing rapidly. Unmet needs are skyrocketing and amplified by COVID-19 and the holiday season. With less than 2% of institutional philanthropy going to services for seniors, together we must bridge a growing local funding gap to meet these needs. We need to ensure seniors are no longer overlooked.

1 in 8 seniors struggles with hunger and must choose between paying rent or purchasing medication or food;
1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or another dementia, more than breast and prostate cancer;
1 in 5 seniors feels lonely and many are without transportation or technology to access the wellness program.

We are still six feet apart, yet remain shoulder to shoulder in caring for at risk seniors in our community!

PVI is here to walk through these tough times alongside you and our community. Deeply centered on our mission and values, we believe that every person deserves to age well. Our core programs serve over 5,000 senior households on the Peninsula, addressing the most pressing issues of aging adults by offering critical services to sustain daily physical, nutritional, emotional and mental health while achieving dignity and independence in their lives.

PVI provides Connection, Community, Hope and Joy!

We are meeting the new reality head on, swiftly adapting our services for the new environment by offering access to critical senior care programs online from the comfort and safety of home while PVI’s Meals on Wheels continues home meal deliveries uninterrupted. Guided virtual online programs and activity packages ensure active older adults and those with Alzheimer’s and dementia and their families are able to be active, stimulated and safely supported, and isolation and loneliness relieved. Enhanced on demand transportation to support healthcare and food access provides rides to seniors for doctor, grocery and pharmacy visits.

You may ask “what can I do to help?” You can have an immediate on the families that need us most!

You provide PVI’s nutritious Meals on Wheels and wellness checks to vulnerable older adults who cannot get the daily nutrition they need. The wait list of hungry homebound seniors is growing. You help families caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s remain all together at home with Rosener House Adult Day Services active, therapeutic program support and caregiver respite. You support active older adults through Little House, The Roslyn G. Morris Activity Center’s variety of wellness activities and on-demand transportation services that help seniors thrive.

Your gift today of any size will help us sustain our vital programs.*

You are the proof that community hearts are generous during this extraordinary time of need.

With grateful thanks,

Thank you for ensuring seniors are not overlooked. Peter
Peter Olson
Chief Executive Officer

Mical Alden Bruntel
Chairman of the Board

* A $500 donation will cover: one month of daily Meals on Wheels for two seniors; or one month of daily staff-guided virtual therapeutic sessions from Rosener House for one adult with Alzheimer’s; or ten 60-minute personal training sessions from Little House for one senior, or 30 transportation rides for 30 seniors for two months.

Have an immediate impact by donating online at penvol.org/donate.
Cantor Arts Center head is asked to leave

By Palo Alto Weekly staff

Following an external investigation into workplace problems at Stanford’s Cantor Arts Center, Susan Dackerman, the director of the museum since September 2017, stepped down in an email from Stanford University on Nov. 18. No date for her departure or explanation of the situation that led to Dackerman’s exit was given in the message from Matthew Tiews, the interim senior associate vice president for the arts, in a statement.

On Nov. 23, Elizabeth Kathleen Mitchel and Maude Brezinski were named interim codirectors of the Cantor Arts Center, Matthew Tiews, interim senior associate vice president for the Arts said in a statement. Mitchell is the Cantor’s Burton and Deedee McMurtry curator and Brezinski is the executive director of development for the arts.

Together, Elizabeth and Maude are well positioned to guide the museum’s artistic and scholarly excellence and engagement with our community as we seek permanent leadership,” Tiews said.

Allegations that Dackerman led a toxic workplace surfaced this summer when the resignation letter from Director of Academic and Public Programs Peter Tokofsky became public. In it, he told the 20-member Director’s Advisory Board that the exodus of one-quarter of the museum staff and two of the four-person leadership team needed the board’s attention. He said Dackerman asked his resignation and said he had left.

“I have spoken with many of those who left, and they cited difficulties with leadership and, generally, the ‘toxic workplace’ of the Cantor as their reasons for leaving,” his letter stated.

He said Dackerman asked for his resignation due to allegedly poor performance, but Tokofsky in his letter cited his many accomplishments in his year at the museum, including an increase in Stanford class visits by 35% and numerous new partnerships with Stanford departments and faculty.

The Stanford Daily detailed additional allegations of a fraught workplace culture in an article published in August.

According to a list of staff departures obtained by this news organization, at least 14 people departed from the Cantor in 2019-2020, including those in curatorial, exhibitions, events, special projects, collection, communications, security and membership. At least another 16 left between July 2017, when it opened, and 2019, including those in development, visitor services, conservation.

In an email dated October 2019, one departing employee wrote to her colleagues at the Cantor: I wanted you to hear from me first that I have resigned from my position and proposed my last day for November 1st...

I am leaving to escape the unfortunate toxicity of our workplace.”

Tiews, in a message obtained by The Almanac’s sister publication, the Palo Alto Weekly, and sent to staff on July 17, 2020, said the Office of the Vice President for the Arts and Cantor management had received notice of concerns about work environments at the Cantor.

As you know, Stanford University is committed to a culture of respect for students, faculty, staff, volunteers, supporters and visitors, and we take these claims very seriously.”

He added that at Dackerman’s request and after consulting with appropriate campus offices, the university engaged an independent outside investigator to review the specific concerns and related issues as they arise. He instructed staff not to respond to media and to refer reporters to Robin Wander in Stanford Communications.

In an updated statement to the Stanford Daily obtained by the Weekly, Tiews noted that within months of hiring Dackerman in 2017, “the director and university director recognized they need to invite experts in organizational development to provide guidance to advance the organization” through analysis, trainings and group meetings.

“As the team and its work culture continue to develop, significant progress is being made to establish a positive, inclusive and healthy work environment that promotes respect and high performance,” he wrote in part.
Your help is needed more than ever. Support the Holiday Fund.

Many Peninsula residents have sought the assistance of a local nonprofit at one point or another, whether for education, economic or after-school support for their child and vital health care for food and housing help.

Now, facing an overwhelming demand for services spurred by the coronavirus pandemic combined with operation limitations due to the health crisis, these organizations need you to step in.

Almanac readers have given generously to our annual Holiday Fund in years past, with support from foundations combining to raise over $150,000 yearly. Though many people face strained financial situations due to the pandemic, we hope that those who will support these nonprofits so they can do as much as possible to help local families, individuals now and long after the pandemic subsides.

Since The Almanac and its Holiday Fund partner the Silicon Valley Community Foundation covering all the administrative costs of the initiative, every dollar raised goes directly to this year’s 10 nonprofit beneficiaries. In addition to individual tax-deductible donations, the fund this year is being supported through grants from Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation so our Holiday Fund donation is effectively doubled.

To contribute online to the campaign, go to almanacnews.com/holiday_fund. Follow the instructions in our ad on Page 4 to send a donation via mail.

This year’s beneficiaries are:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula:

- With locations in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood in Redwood City, this organization provides academic and after-school support, enrichment, mentoring and activities for low-income kids. To support students with distance learning, the Boys and Girls Club is now providing them with a safe, in-person learning space for online learning that is within walking distance from home, at their clubhouses or school sites.

Ecumenical Hunger Program:

EHP provides emergency food, clothing and household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance, to families, regardless of religious background. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, the program provides baskets to more than 2,000 households. Because of public health mandates, the 45-year-old nonprofit cannot bring in volunteers to help, and it has temporarily closed all services except for essential food programs.

McMove:

With sites on the Peninsula and throughout Silicon Valley, this program serves thousands of homeless people annually, including families. It offers one-on-one counseling, assistance in securing housing, children's programs and training in comprehensive skills so that its clients can achieve self-sufficiency.

Health Connected:

An East Palo Alto-based nonprofit, Health Connected serves more than 15,000 students and their families in the state through its comprehensive health education programs. Its mission is to "equip young people with information, skills, and support to make thoughtful choices about their relationships and sexual health throughout their lives," according to the organization’s website.

Literacy Partners - Menlo Park:

Literacy Partners was established in 1972 to promote and facilitate literacy in Menlo Park and surrounding areas, according to its website. Its goal is to support Project Read - Menlo Park, which offers free literacy services to adults. It trains volunteers to work one-on-one with students wishing to improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work, and in the community. It also sponsors basic English classes and weekly conversation clubs.

Ravenswood Family Health Center:

The center provides primary medical and preventive health care at a clinic in East Palo Alto. Most of the center’s registered patients, who number more than 17,000, are low-income and uninsured, and live in the Belle Haven, East Palo Alto and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room:

St. Anthony’s serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week. It also offers take-home bags of food, and emergency food and clothing assistance.

St. Francis Center:

Beginning in 1986, the St. Francis Center began offering food, clothing, and other essential services for low-income families out of a small house in the Fair Oaks neighborhood. In addition to these services it continues to provide those who live and work in Redwood City, the organization now includes the 10,000-square-foot St. Francis Center, Stena Youth Center, Holy Family School, and eight apartment buildings for low-income families.

Upward Scholars:

This program, formerly the Sequoia Adult School Scholars, provides financial support and one-on-one tutoring to help beneficiaries improve their basic reading, writing, and math skills.

StarVista:

StarVista serves more than 41,000 people in San Mateo County with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education and residential programs. It also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services, including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, a parent support hotline, and an alcohol and drug helpline.

First recycled water system

The headline certainly seems like a step in the right direction — our first recycled water system launched in Menlo Park ("Menlo Park’s first recycled water system launched in Sharon Heights," Oct. 30). I read on to discover that $5.3 million of voter-supported state funds were used for this project to irrigate a private country club’s golf course. I also learned that in past studies of Menlo Park’s municipal water data from Hetch Hetchy was being pumped into this private country club’s golf course on both sides.

It would be great for The Almanac to write more about how these realities were justified, and what the opportunity was for the public to weigh in.

Barbara Beebe
Oakley Avenue, Menlo Park

995 Fictitious Name Statement

CWI ARCHITECTURE

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 286570

The following person (person) is (are) doing business as: CWI Architecture, located at 130 Portola Road, Suite A, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

CARTER J. WARR

130 Portola Road, Suite A

Portola Valley, CA 94028

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on September 19, 1994. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 5, 2020.

(AlM Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2020)

CHERUBIC IN HOME CARE SERVICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 285643

The following person (person) is (are) doing business as: Cherubic In Home Care Services, located at 3250 San Jose Ave., CA 94064, Alameda County.

Registered owner(s):

ELITIS SERKION

3290 San Jose Ave.

Alameda, CA 94021

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on August 26, 2020. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on October 29, 2020.

(AlM Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2020)

997 All Other Legals

Title Order No. 0194223 Trustee Sale No. 84977 Loan No. HUELIN LIVING TRUST DATED 2/22/2018. IF YOU HOLD A MORTGAGE OR DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/30/2018, YOU MUST SEND A COPY OF YOUR MORTGAGE OR DEED OF TRUST TO LENDER AT: 310 VINE ST., PALO ALTO, CA 94301. TO DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE A MORTGAGE OR DEED OF TRUST, YOU MAY CALL: 650-903-1700. TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO A MORTGAGE OR DEED OF TRUST, YOU MAY CONSULT EITHER OF THESE RESOURCES, YOU MAY BE CHARGED A FEE FOR THIS INFORMATION. IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY, CALL THE COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE OR A TITLE COMPANY. YOU SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT THE SAME LENDER MAY HOLD MORE THAN ONE MORTGAGE OR DEED OF TRUST ON THE SAME PROPERTY. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE OF YOUR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY, YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL. THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT TRUSTEE SALES IS MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU TO THE PUBLIC IN CONFORMITY WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. THE SALE DATE SHOWN ON THIS NOTICE OF SALE MAY BE POSTPONED ONCE AND ONLY ONCE. IF A NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IS SERVED ON THE TRUSTEE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE SET FOR THE FIRST POSTPONEMENT, THE SALE MAY BE CANCELED. IF A NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IS SERVED ON THE TRUSTEE AFTER THE DATE SET FOR THE FIRST POSTPONEMENT, THE SALE MAY BE CANCELED UP TO 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE. THE TRUSTEE MAY CANCEL THE SALE AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE DATE SET FOR THE SALE.

PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed once and only once. If a notice of trustee sale is served on the trustee on or before the date set for the first postponement, the sale may be canceled. If a notice of trustee sale is served on the trustee after the date set for the first postponement, the sale may be canceled up to 90 days after the date of service. The trustee may cancel the sale at any time prior to the date set for the sale. POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property, you should understand that this involves risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will bid on the mortgage or deed of trust, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to a clear and marketable ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying the fees of the current owner. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property, you are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on the property by reviewing the county recorder’s office or a title insurance company, any of which charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. CALIFORNIA TD SPECIALIST IS A DEBT COLLECTION COMPANY FOR THE BENEFICIARY. ANY PERSON WHO WANTS TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM THE BENEFICIARY SHOULD CONTACT THE COLLECTION COMPANY. THE COLLECTION COMPANY IS AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: 3290 SAN JOSE AVE., SUITE A, PALO ALTO, CA 94306. THE COMPANY IS LICENSED UNDER THE BUSINESS CODE. THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: SDL PROPERTIES, INC., 130 PORTOLA ROAD, SUITE A, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028. THE REGISTERED OWNER(S) IS (ARE) ANALISTIC HOME CARE SERVICES, INC., 3290 SAN JOSE AVE., SUITE A, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063. IF YOU OBJECT TO THE SALE, YOU MAY FILE A PETITION TO ADMINISTER THE ESTATE IN THE COUNTY COURT IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED. THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR Right TO OWN THE PROPERTY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO FILE A PETITION TO ADMINISTER THE ESTATE BEFORE THE SALE DATE. IF YOU FILE A PETITION TO ADMINISTER THE ESTATE, THE SALE WILL BE CANCELED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A PETITION TO ADMINISTER THE ESTATE BEFORE THE SALE DATE, THE SALE WILL GO FORWARD. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE TRUSTEE AT: 3290 SAN JOSE AVE., SUITE A, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028;

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Desperate Times, Creative Measures

Using ingenuity, businesses pivot during the pandemic

By Elena Kadavany, Lloyd Lee, Kali Shiloh and Linda Taaffe

After the coronavirus hit the Bay Area, the result of the local economy was swift and unprecedented. Over the past eight months, Midpeninsula businesses have had no idea how long or how extreme the impacts of COVID-19 might be. They’ve faced an unpredictable cycle of forced closures and partial reopenings — that at times have pivoted back and forth and back again within days amid changing health mandates that have indefinitely extended shelter-in-place orders from weeks into months.

As many local businesses rise above the chaos and uncertainty to redefine their operations during this time when it appears that business as usual will not be usual anytime soon, their creativity, perseverance and commitment to serving the community has pushed the concept of “small business” beyond the established boundaries — that have existed for decades — of pointing customers to specific resources, academics who look at the art here’s an art to exhibiting paintings, sculptures and a form that has been perfected to solve business needs with travel discouraged and large gatherings, and maintain itself as a tool that allows you to learn from those lessons. But how do you take an entire museum — originally intended to be experienced in person — and put it online during a global health crisis?

For the Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University’s home to more than 38,000 works of art, the real estate industry already had part of the answer. One of the problems the campus museum needed to solve was how to work around restrictions of large gatherings, and maintain itself as a resource not just for the local aesthetes, but also for the academics who look at the art center as an educational tool. “We wanted to ensure that we had the means to support the research and teaching mission of the university,” Dackerman said.

To do that, the museum invested in new pieces of technology — one of which is called Matterport, a 3D imaging platform that has been perfected for real estate professionals to show off commercial or residential properties online. (Clients of the Sunnyvale-based company include Coldwell Banker and Cushman & Wakefield.)

With Matterport, Cantor Arts Center is able to extract 3D renderings of the museum’s space, along with its extensive collection, onto a platform that allows viewers to virtually walk through the art center.

Real estate software transforms museum collection into a virtual gallery

A visitor admires a painting at the Cantor Arts Center before the museum closed its doors to the public earlier this year.

To keep its collections accessible to the public, the museum has launched a 3D gallery online that allows viewers to virtually walk through the art center.

Ada Braun shops at Bianchini’s Market in Portola Valley during the first week of the stay-at-home order in March. As an essential business, the market has experienced an increase in customers and orders since last year.

The one thing Omana said he can count on is the community’s support. “We’re pretty much a neighborhood store, and our neighborhood has really supported us,” he said. “Some things have not gone well, and they’ve stuck with us. It’s a good community to be a part of.”

See Readers’ Choice listings on page 21 to learn how last year’s Restaurant winners have responded to the pandemic.

—K.S.

‘IT WAS LIKE THE WHOLE TOWN WAS IN THE STORE’

Bianchini’s Market adjusts to new demands as an essential business

When news of a pending shelter-in-place order was announced in March, Bianchini’s Market found itself in the center of a whirlwind as residents scoured the shelves for necessities before bunkering down at home. “It was like the whole town was in the store,” an employee told this news organization in early May, describing that first day of shelter-in-place as “madness” inside the Portola Valley market.

Months later, even as shelter-in-place restrictions have been loosened, business hasn’t returned to normal at the market: The pandemic continues to push demand above last year’s levels.

While having more customers is generally a good thing, the designation of being an essential business has come at a price, according to store manager Jason Omana.

Enforcing social distancing, mask requirements and other new health restrictions while accommodating an influx of customers can be challenging for staff, he said. “My poor employees — they have to act as policemen,” Omana said. “That’s a lot to ask of them. That’s not in their job description in any way, shape or form. All these new rules that people have to follow — the curve for that was so steep.”

At first, the rush on groceries and basic goods was overwhelming. “We’ve gotten used to it now,” he said.

Customers come to the store much less often than in the early weeks of the pandemic, but when they do, they buy a lot, Omana said.

For two decades, the local community could count on Bianchini’s to have their favorite cereal or salad dressing — the shelves always stocked, products always available. The pandemic has changed all that. Now, instead of pointing customers to specific days, Omana explained. “Now, this hit ... basically (we need) to throw all those playbooks in the trash, because nothing can be predicted at this point,” he said.

The store has already seen a significant difference in holiday buying trends. Halloween candy that usually flies off the shelves was purchased slowly in October, and with travel discouraged and large family get-togethers ill advised, Omana has no idea if the store’s demand will meet its supply.

A lot of the holiday inventory had to be ordered months in advance in the pre-pandemic playbook to follow during the holidays: You know how much broth to order, you know how much turkey to order, how much everything to order.

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—K.S.

‘GOING FORWARD WILL BE MUCH MORE HYBRID’

Real estate software transforms museum collection into a virtual gallery

There’s an art to exhibiting paintings, sculptures and a 235-ton piece of steel all under one roof — methods that curators have studied and developed for real estate professionals to show off commercial or residential properties online. (Clients of the Sunnyvale-based company include Coldwell Banker and Cushman & Wakefield.)

With Matterport, Cantor Arts Center is able to extract 3D renderings of the museum’s space, along with its extensive collection, onto a platform that allows viewers to virtually walk through the art center.

A visitor admires a painting at the Cantor Arts Center before the museum closed its doors to the public earlier this year.

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—K.S.
collection of mid-20th century paintings of Auguste Rodin’s bronze sculptures, and upload it to the museum website. This allows viewers to virtually walk through some of the art center’s 130,000-square-foot campus and, with the click of a button, zoom in on each piece of art. The technology is not without its limitations, however. Dackerman and many other art lovers agree that current digital technology cannot fully replicate the experience of seeing all the true colors and textures of a piece of artwork in person.

"There is nothing better than a personal encounter with art; there’s just so much more immediacy and intimacy that way," Dackerman said. But the tradeoffs still come with a staff. With a large part of the museum now online, Cantor Arts Center is no longer limited to local visitors or researchers, but to anyone around the world. "It’s a really interesting proposition around museums, because it means that you can have the experience of going to the museum from your home, which makes us more accessible to a much broader demographic," Dackerman said.

And virtual tours don’t have to bear the burden of replacing the in-person experience. Instead, the museum director sees this digital initiative as an opportunity to encourage people to later seek out art in real life. "Even after the closure is over, even after we’re all moving through the world again, I think that we will have learned some really interesting lessons and that our program, going forward, will be much more hybrid," Dackerman said. "It will be a combination of in-person and digital platforms because it really expands our base."

The art center continues to expand its virtual resources. Along with a large library of artist talks, learning guides and tours virtually led by docents, the museum will push out new exhibitions online.

Next year, for example, Cantor Arts Center plans to debut a new exhibition called "When Home Won’t Let You Stay," where contemporary artists confront the issues of migration and global movement — a particularly relevant topic when thinking about the spread of a virus, Dackerman said. "In the last seven months or so, we’ve had to figure out a set of protocols for virtual tours," Dackerman said. "I would say we’re still very much in the process of experimenting and learning from them."

See Readers’ Choice listings on page 21 to find out how last year’s Arts & Entertainment winners have responded to the pandemic.

—L.L.

‘OUR TEAM IS STRONGER THAN EVER’

Iconic bookstore weather pandemic without a single layoff

When the pandemic forced Kepler’s Books & Magazines to close its doors to the public in March, the independent bookseller did what it’s done many times over the past six decades: It adapted.

The Menlo Park store, facing a 40% drop in sales just two months into San Mateo County’s shelter-in-place order, turned its focus to online sales and forged new relationships with its distributor and vendors to get books into customers’ hands. Sales through Kepler’s website quickly ballooned to more than 25 times of what the store saw pre-pandemic.

"The amount of growth has been astounding. It has blown our minds," CEO Praveen Madan said in May.

Since then, the store has been able to reopen to the public, and in-store shopping has reclaimed the majority of sales — about 60%. The bookseller, however, is still experiencing 10 to 12 times the number of online orders than it did previously.

What’s more, the bookseller has weathered the pandemic without laying off a single employee.

During a benefit meeting in March, while facing dismal prospects and weeks of quarantine, employees voted unanimously to reduce their hours across the board to avoid layoffs, Madan explained.

"We set a simple goal at the beginning of the pandemic that we were going to keep our team together despite the shutdown and try to emerge stronger from this experience," he said. "This has proven to be a winning strategy. Our team is stronger than ever. We are collaborating wonderfully and able to innovate on many fronts."

While customers can once again browse the store’s aisles to peruse thousands of titles in the revamped store, which has added MERV-13 medical-grade filters to its air-conditioning units to keep staff and guests safe, the bookseller is working on another shopping alternative: an open-air bookstore.

"Kepler’s en plein-air," as Madan calls it, would once again transform the store to meet the needs of an ever-changing community of booklovers by bringing books outdoors, where the risk of spreading the virus would dramatically decrease.

See Readers’ Choice listings on page 22 to find out how last year’s Retail winners have responded to the pandemic.

—K.S.

‘THEY’RE BRINGING US SOME REALLY NEAT THINGS’

Frame shop sees unique requests as residents get creative during quarantine

Tucked between hair salons and restaurants on Menlo Park’s Santa Cruz Avenue, Peabody Gallery and Framing has fared better than many other small businesses during the pandemic.

The custom-framing and fine art gallery, which has been around for three decades, initially reopened for curbside pickup in May so customers could drop off their artwork and view samples of frame designs they had chosen online from a table set up at the front entrance.

According to owner Elisa Spurlin, there are rarely more than one or two people in the store during normal times, so keeping customers safe while transitioning back to business as usual hasn’t posed too big of a challenge. Aside from masks and social distancing, "We haven’t had to change much," she said.

As Peabody’s neighbors have started letting customers come back, she’s seen foot traffic at her store increase as well.

"We are about 80% to 85% of where we were this time last year," she said.

Although the store is uniquely situated to weather the quarantine well, the business has made a few changes. The gallery, which people can still visit in person, is not accessible online.

"We are open, so people can come in and look, but in the world of trying to minimize contact, we’re trying to promote the (virtual gallery) as best we can," she said.

When it comes to framing, Spurlin has designated two tables for customers to use as home bases while longer lets them wander the store freely.

Spurlin said that after operating the store for 30 years, "you start to notice patterns, and this isn’t the first time people have been hesitant to go out. There have been other times when the economy has been in a recession and people stay home or they don’t have the money to spend," she said.

Unlike the 2008 recession, when people were more hesitant to spend money on anything but necessities, the pandemic has left locals itching to improve their surroundings by making aesthetic home improvements.

"What’s happened lately is people are cleaning like crazy, and they’re finding things," Spurlin said.

Instead of throwing away old records or photos or even clothes that have been hidden in the attic, the people are bringing them to Peabody and asking Spurlin to frame them.

"They’re bringing us some really neat things that have some really fun stories behind them."

She recently helped stuff and frame an old White Stag ski suit that is going on the wall of one customer’s Lake Tahoe home.

Spurlin said she feels fortunate that she’s still able to go to work every day and see her customers from a distance.

"Thank you to our community," she said. "It honestly seems like everybody out there is trying to do the right thing, and to me, that’s what’s going to keep our doors open."

See Readers’ Choice listings on page 26 to find out how last year’s Service winners have responded to the pandemic.

—K.S.
MINIMIZING CUSTOMER INTERACTION: ‘180 DEGREES FROM OUR NATURAL INCLINATION’

With caviar still on the menu, Michelin-starred restaurant turns to takeout

When Village Pub servers, line cooks and dishwashers clock in to work these days, they immediately have their temperature taken. They sign a form that states in English and Spanish: “I certify that I am in good health and have had my temperature checked and recorded accurately at the beginning of my workday.” They deposit the pen they used into a sleek silver container labeled “used pens,” put on a mask and start their shift.

The Village Pub, located at 2967 Woodside Road in Woodside, reopened for both indoor and outdoor dining in June. While many of the signature touches of the 19-year-old Michelin-starred restaurant returned — the staff still uses handheld irons to steam wrinkles out of white tablecloths before setting the tables, caviar is still on the menu and service is paramount — much has changed in the age of COVID-19.

Diners can order on their smartphones from a digital QR code or physical menu, and the latter is sanitized after every use. The menu was scaled down from 60 dishes to just 15, which are now offered in a $75 per person pre-fixe model to reduce the time waiters spend at tables. Customers can only take their masks off when seated, and employees keep them on at all times. Only one employee is allowed at a table at a time unless it’s to drop off dishes and leave.

The overarching goal, said Tim Stannard, founder of Bacchus Management Group, which operates The Village Pub, is to minimize the amount of interaction between employees and diners — a counterintuitive “180 degrees from our natural inclination, which is to spend as much time as we can (with customers).”

Reconfiguring The Village Pub’s elegant dining room to allow for at least 6 feet of distance between tables meant operating at 50% capacity. The restaurant quickly secured the necessary permits to build an outdoor patio — which cost $50,000 — that makes up for the lost tables. On a recent Monday evening, every table on the patio was full while a scarce number of parties sat inside. Stannard said the split between outdoor and indoor seating requests is about 70/30.

Plenty of people still want the traditional dine-in experience, he said. When Bacchus was discussing whether to resume indoor dining, they talked to staff, investors and customers. There was a “pressure — not a pressure,” he corrected himself, “but interest,” from the community in reopening the dining room. It’s sold out nearly every night since reopening, Stannard said in July.

The pandemic forced a major shift for The Village Pub, an upscale restaurant that places high value on the experience of dining in, into takeout. Pre-coronavirus, to-go orders generated less than 2% of sales for the restaurant, Stannard said. Now, delivery accounts for about 30% of sales — a number that’s held since the restaurant reopened for indoor and outdoor dining.

See Readers’ Choice listings on page 21 to find out how last year’s Restaurant winners have responded to the pandemic. —E.K.
READERS’ CHOICE WINNERS: HOW ARE THEY DOING A YEAR LATER?

A lot has changed over the past year since readers voted for their favorite local places to eat, shop, work out or spend time with family and friends for The Almanac’s annual Readers’ Choice edition celebrating small businesses. The Almanac recently surveyed our 2019 winners to see how they are doing a year later. (Note: With ever-shifting public health guidelines, some services listed below may be modified. Check with the business before you go.)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cafe Borrone
For decades, Cafe Borrone has been a beloved neighborhood destination, so when it was forced to close its doors due to hardships created by the pandemic, more than 700 patrons rallied together to raise $110,000 to reopen the downtown landmark. The cafe is now open and serving food and drinks in its outdoor plaza next to the fountain and offers to-go orders and delivery.

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-327-0830; cafeborrone.com
2019: Place to Meet People
2019: Independent Coffee & Tea House
2019: Casual Dining
2019: Outdoor Dining

Flea Street Cafe
Jesse Cool’s Flea Street Cafe is well known for its sustainable menu that only includes fresh, in-season, organic and local ingredients. During the pandemic, the Menlo Park restaurant has also become known among local hospitals for feeding dozens of frontline workers through its Meals of Gratitude program that Cool launched with Stanford University associate professor of medicine Holly Tabor. The program serves about 200 meals a week. As part of community donations — to Stanford Health Care workers each week. For patrons, the restaurant now offers its high-end dishes to go and recently reopened its covered, heated outdoor deck.

3607 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, 650-854-1226; coolatz.com
2019: Place for a Date

Left Bank
Since it opened in 1998, Left Bank has been the go-to place for French cuisine and drinks served in a fun European environment. During the pandemic, the restaurant is offering outdoor dining, limited indoor dining, curbside pickup and delivery service. All employees and vendors receive health screenings before entering the building and employees have been retrained and certified for new hygiene, sanitation and safety standards, according to the restaurant’s website.

635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-473-6543; leftbank.com
2019: Happy Hour
2019: French Restaurant

Menlo Tavern
Located at the Stanford Park Hotel, Menlo Tavern has won a place in the hearts of those who love great food and live music. The menu features American cuisine that follows the seasons. The restaurant is temporarily closed due to the pandemic.

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-330-2790; menlotavern.com
2019: Live Music
2019: American Food

Food & Drink

Amici’s
Amici’s has been serving up pizza — along with pasta, soup and salad — to Menlo Park patrons for the past decade. The thin-crust New York-style pies are cooked in traditional brick ovens next to an open flame.

Diners can now eat outdoors or order food for pickup or delivery.

880 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-329-8888; amici.com
2019: Pizza

Baskin-Robbins
Longtime downtown ice cream shop Baskin-Robbins offers traditional ice cream and frozen yogurt in cups and cones, as well as sundaes, milkshakes, parfaits and ice cream cakes. The shop is currently open for pickup and delivery.

863 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-323-9335; baskinrobbins.com
2019: Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt

Bianchini’s Market
Since 1998, shoppers have counted on Bianchini’s Market for fresh local produce, gourmet cheeses and groceries from small producers whose items aren’t found at chain stores. The family-operated market has remained open throughout the pandemic as an essential business. In response, the market has implemented new health and safety policies, offers delivery in as little as one hour.

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-851-4391; bianchinismarket.com
2019: Place to Buy Meat
2019: Sandwiches
2019: Grocery
2019: Produce

Buck’s of Woodside
The eclectic and quirky decor inside Buck’s of Woodside is legendary — whimsical figurines and aircraft hanging from the ceiling, floor and tabletop gawgs and oddities, even a Statue of Liberty presiding over tables. Now, during the pandemic, patrons can explore the restaurant’s museum-like collection from afar: Buck’s has created a virtual, 3D replica of its entire dining room, which can be explored in detail on its website. The restaurant is open for outdoor dining and takeout.

3062 Woodside Road, Woodside, 650-851-8010; buckswoodside.com
2019: Breakfast
2019: Dining with Kids

Cafe Del Sol
Cafe Del Sol in downtown Menlo Park offers extensive lunch and dinner menus with traditional Mexican fare such as enchiladas, tacos and burritos, as well as a range of chicken, fish and vegetarian dishes. The restaurant is now open for dine-in, takeout and delivery.

1010 Doyle St., Menlo Park, 650-326-2501
2019: Mexican Restaurant

Chef Chu’s
Since opening in 1970, Chef Chu’s specialty dishes, including its homemade potstickers and Beijing duck cooked in a cast-iron Chinese oven, have attracted a who’s who list of diners from near and far, including Serena Williams, Steve Young, Justin Bieber and F1K Jr. Chef Chu’s is open for five-thru, takeout and delivery.

1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, 650-948-2696; chefchu.com
2019: Asian Food

Carpaccio
Ever since Ristorante Car- paccio opened in downtown Menlo Park in 1988, it has con- sistently won Readers’ Choice for best Italian restaurant. Car- paccio features weekly lunch and dinner special menus, while also offering a full range of appetizers, soups, salads, pastas and meat and fish dinners. The restaurant is offering outdoor bistro dining, limited indoor dining and curbside to- go service.
1120 Crane St., Menlo Park, 650-322-1211; carpaccios.com
2019: Italian Restaurant

Readers’ Choice 2020

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A heartfelt Thank You to our loyal customers. Your continuing support this year is helping us in our efforts to remain viable. Besides our full menu we are still offering our innovative special menu. Good wishes to you and your families during the holidays.

Koma Sushi
Family-owned Koma Sushi Restaurant is where Japanese food cravings will be answered with customer favorites like flounder, sashimi, grilled squid, ahi sashimi and a nigiri combination plate. The restaurant is accepting dine-in and takeout orders Monday through Saturday. 211 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-321-5662; komasushi.net
2019: Japanese Restaurant

Draeger’s Bakery
The bakery at Draeger’s Market has been a part of the Menlo Park community for 64 years, offering a variety of breads and sweets baked from scratch from favorites like German chocolate cake, vanilla coconut cake and s’mores cheesecake to wedding cakes. The bakery is open for service with new health practices. Groceries also can be picked up on-site or purchased through third-party delivery services. 1010 University Drive, Menlo Park, 650-324-7700; draegers.com
2019: Dessert

Jeffrey’s Hamburgers
With meat ground fresh every day and numerous patty options for those who don’t eat beef, Jeffrey’s Hamburgers has been a longtime favorite for those looking to binge on burgers. Jeffrey’s also offers salads, soups, sandwiches, fish and chips, milkshakes and root beer floats. The restaurant is open for pickup and delivery seven days a week. 888 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-322-1959; jeffreysburgers.com
2019: Hamburgers

Woodside Bakery
Woodside Bakery offers pastries, cakes, and cookies and other baked goods that have kept customers coming back for more than 35 years. The family-owned European bakery makes its baked goods from scratch every day. The shop is open for in-store pickup. 325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park, 650-854-6207; woodsidebakery.com
2019: Bakery

Woodside Sushi
Koma Sushi offers breakfast, lunch, brunch and dinner, as well as specialty cocktails and spirits and wines by the glass and bottle. In addition to takeout and delivery, outdoor dining rooms are open for dinner nightly, and brunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, according to the cafe’s website. To keep guests safe, the Village Bakery has “carefully configured” its dining areas to accommodate guests at a safe distance. A limited number of reservations are accepted and walk-ins are welcome.
3052 Woodside Road, Woodside, 650-851-5555; tvbwoodside.com
2019: New Restaurant

The Village Pub
The Village Pub is an upscale Michelin Star restaurant that places high value on the experience of dining. Even during the pandemic, the upscale restaurant kept many of its signature touches — including white tablecloths and caviar — as it resumed indoor dining at a reduced capacity in the restaurant’s elegant dining room and expanded outdoor dining and takeout service.
2967 Woodside Road, Woodside, 650-851-9888; thevillagepub.net
2019: Romantic Restaurant

Reducer’s Choice continued from page 21

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2019: Hamburgers

READERS’ CHOICE

Jamis MacNiven, the recently retired owner of the longtime Buck’s in Woodside, has launched a virtual tour of the quirky, museum-like collection in his restaurant until indoor dining resumes.

Menlo Velo Bikes
“Business has been through the roof” at Menlo Velo Bikes as the pandemic has fueled a surge in bike sales and ridership, according to owner Rainer Zaechelein, whose shop provides a wide variety of bicycles, rentals and maintenance services. The shop is currently open for curbside drop-off and pickup.
433 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-327-5137; menloveobicycles.com
2019: Bicycle Shop

See READERS’ CHOICE, page 24
Bianchini’s Market is your Readers’ Choice for Best Place to Buy Meat, Best Produce, Best Grocery and Best Sandwiches.

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**READERS’ CHOICE 2020**

Food reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

BY ELENA KADVANY
November 27, 2020

**Kepler’s Books & Magazines**

Kepler’s Books & Magazines has weathered the good, the bad and the unprecedented for the past 65 years. Although the independent bookseller looks a lot different than it did when it was the hangout for the counterculture in its early days in the 1960s, it has remained a beloved cornerstone in the community, offering a broad collection of books, magazines and literary events. In response to the pandemic, Kepler’s nonprofit arm, the Kepler’s Literary Foundation, created Refresh the Page, a series of online conversations, classes and seminars for adults and youth. The store is now open and also offering plaza pickup service.

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-324-4321; keplers.com
2019: Bookstore

**Shady Lane**

From hand-carved Zuni necklaces and luminescent art glass to troll beads, Shady Lane has been offering one-of-a-kind pieces ever since artist Alice Deutscher opened the boutique more than four decades ago. The boutique is open for limited hours for in-store shopping three days a week and offers online shopping and curbside pickup. The store also offers gift wrapping.

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park, 650-321-1099; shadylaneGallery.com
2019: Boutique
2019: Place to Buy Jewelry

**Portola Art Gallery**

Portola Art Gallery has been showcasing local artists for 14 years at its current location in the Allied Arts Guild complex. After shutting down for three months during the shelter-in-place order, the gallery is again open for guests to view paintings, photos and pottery in person. It also has artwork displayed online. Although events have been canceled, artists are now visiting the gallery to answer visitor questions in person.

75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park, 650-321-0220; portolaaGallery.com
2019: Frame Store/Art Gallery

**Ladera Garden & Gifts**

Ladera Garden & Gifts is a one-stop shop for garden, gifts and flower arrangements. Juan and Mercedes Navarro, who have operated the full-service nursery for 39 years, have re-opened their business for in-store shopping Tuesday through Sunday.

3130 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, 650-834-3850; ladegardenandgifts.com
2019: Gift Shop
2019: Nursery
2019: Florist

**Menlo Flooring & Design**

Family-owned and operated Menlo Flooring & Design has been providing expert flooring design and installation for Peninsula residents for more than 20 years. During the pandemic, the store has opened its state-of-the-art showroom by appointment only.

905 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650-384-6326; menloflooring.com
2019: Floor Coverings

**Menlo Hardware**

Menlo Park Ace Hardware has been the go-to hardware store for home, garden and building supplies since it opened in 2005. In addition to offering housewares and tools, the independently owned shop offers services, including key cutting, custom glass and acrylic sheet cutting, blade sharpening, window screen repair, propane exchange and product assembly and delivery. In-store shopping is available seven days a week.

700 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-325-2515; menlohardware.com
2019: Hardware Store

**Flegel’s Home Furnishings**

Flegel’s Home Furnishings has been a downtown Menlo Park fixture for 65 years. The family-owned furniture and interior design store has helped generations of clients create inviting home environments ever since Art and Cleora Flegel opened the furniture store at its original location on Santa Cruz Avenue. The shop, which moved into a new location on El Camino Real at the start of March just before the shelter-in-place went into effect, has reopened its doors for business.

1010 El Camino Real Suite 90, Menlo Park, 650-326-9661; flegel’s.com
2019: Home Decor & Furnishings

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635 Santa Cruz Ave | Menlo Park leftbank.com | 650.473.6543

Anna Chow, co-owner of Cheeky Monkey Toys, checks orders assembled for pick up in the downtown Menlo Park store on April 15 when the shop launched its pickup and delivery service after having to close to the public due to coronavirus health mandates.
NOTHING can Stop Flegels

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Menlo Park
1010 El Camino, Suite 90
650.326.9661
www.flegels.com
**Fleet Feet**

Fleet Feet in Menlo Park is committed to enhancing local running and walking communities and helping customers find products that improve their fitness experience. They assess foot type and gait cycle and have 3D scanners to measure feet, making their footwear recommendations uniquely tailored to each customer. The Fleet Feet store has been reconfigured to allow for social distancing, and for those who prefer to shop online, they’re offering virtual shoe fittings via Zoom. They are now closed on Mondays to allow for extra time to clean.

859 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-325-9432; fleetfeet.com

2019: Place to Buy Shoes

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**Cheeky Monkey Toys**

Cheeky Monkey Toys is a family-owned shop that specializes in finding “just the right toy” for each customer. Since opening its doors in Menlo Park in 1999, the shop has provided interactive toys designed to stimulate children’s minds to generations of local families. When all non-essential businesses were ordered to close in March, Cheeky Monkey Toys quickly pivoted to a direct delivery-only service, dropping off toys within a 10-mile radius of the store. Cheeky Monkey has reopened for in-store shopping and also offers curbside pickup and delivery.

640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, 650-328-7975; cheekymonkeytoys.com

2019: Specialty Store

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**Menlo Park Barber Shop**

The barbers at Menlo Park Barber Shop pride themselves on developing close relationships with clients, giving excellent cuts and “blending craft and tradition with a strong dose of humor.” The shop has reopened for in-person indoor visits, and barbers also are making house calls. Masks are required for all appointments.

2100 Azy Ave., Menlo Park, 650-391-9008; menloparkbarbershop.com

2019: Barber

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2019: Day Spa

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About the cover: Caroee Hazard, a bookseller at Kepler’s Books, prepares orders inside the Menlo Park store in June. Photo by Magali Gauthier.
To our Stanford Medicine Community

For months, we have faced the challenges of living through this pandemic together. And while we have more reasons to hope with each passing day that we will eventually defeat this virus, it is clear the crisis is far from over.

The number of COVID cases in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as much of California, has soared over the past few weeks. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged Americans to avoid large gatherings in an effort to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19. Hospitals across the nation are filling their beds more quickly, and our frontline healthcare workers are facing exhaustion.

This is a dangerous situation to be in, and we need everyone’s help to fix it.

Even with so much uncertainty, the science is clear. We know what works to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- **Wear a mask.** Masks can save lives, including your own.
- **Wash your hands.** Thorough handwashing stops the virus from spreading.
- **Keep your distance.** Avoid gatherings and stay 6 feet apart from those you don’t live with.

We know you have heard all of these recommendations before, but they are more important than ever.

Stanford Medicine is here for you, as always, and committed to being a part of the solution. We know you are counting on us, and we have mobilized everyone—our care teams, researchers, students, and staff—to rise to this challenge.

But we need you to know that we are counting on you, too. It is your help that will make the difference and determine whether or not we can slow the spread of the virus in the weeks and months ahead. It is your care and thoughtfulness that will save lives and shape the future.

We are here for you and with your help, we will get through this together.

**Lloyd Minor, MD**
Dean, Stanford School of Medicine

**David Entwistle**
President and CEO
Stanford Health Care

**Paul King**
President and CEO
Stanford Children’s Health
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$8,000,000 | 1165SanMateo.com

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631 Harvard Avenue
$2,950,000 | 3 beds, 3.5 baths | 631Harvard.com

JUST LISTED

380 Claire Place
$6,695,000 | 6 beds, 5 baths | 380Claire.com

JUST SOLD

1050 Trinity Drive
$4,798,000 | 4 beds, office, 4 baths

SOLD

1165 Klamath Drive
$6,175,000 | 5 beds, 4 full baths, 1 half-bath

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